

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 IGA-02

SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 /107 W
----- 096707

O 301235Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0815

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, BG, IN, PK

SUBJECT: MUJIB APPEAL TO PRESIDENT NIXON FOR REPATRIATION
ASSISTANCE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRIMIN MUJIB TO PRESIDENT
NIXON HANDED TO CHARGE BY ACTING MINISTER KARIM EVENING AUGUST
30.
BEGIN TEXT...

"ON APRIL 17, 1973, THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA JOINTLY MADE A DECLARATION SEEKING
SIMULTANEOUS REPATRIATION OF THE PAKISTANI PRISONERS OF WAR AND
CIVILIAN INTERNEES, BANGALEES DETAINED IN PAKISTAN AND PAKISTANIS
IN BANGLADESH. THE JOINT DECLARATION WAS A SINCERE ATTEMPT TO
SOLVE THE HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE ARMED CONFLICT
OF 1971 AND MITIGATE THE SUFFERINGS OF NEARLY HALF A MILLION
PERSONS. IT IS A MATTER OF SINCERE GRATIFICATION THAT
YOUR EXCELLENCY HAD PERSONALLY WELCOMED THE DECLARATION AS A
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CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVE AIMED AT THE CREATION OF A NEW

ATMOSPHERE OF DETENTE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT AND THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THIS AREA.

"IT IS IN THIS BACKGROUND THAT I HAVE GREAT PLEASURE IN INFORMING YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH HAS CONURRED IN THE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED IN NEW DELHI ON AUGUST 28, 1973, BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, WHICH PROVIDES FOR SIMULTANEOUS THREE-WAY REPATRIATION OF THE PAKISTANI PRISONERS OF WAR AND THE NATIONALS OF BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. THIS AGREEMENT REPRESENTS A VICTORY FOR FUNDAMENTAL HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH THE JOINT DECLARATION WAS BASED.

"IN THE LARGER INTEREST OF THE PEOPLES INVOLVED, THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH, WHICH HAS SINCERELY WORKED FOR AN AGREEMENT OF THE HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS, IS NOW ANXIOUS THAT THE PROCESS OF REPATRIATION SHOULD GET UNDER WAY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT AND BE COMPLETED WITH MAXIMUM DISPATCH FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL PERSONS CONCERNED, MY GOVERNMENT ALSO RECOGNISES THAT THE REPATRIATION OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS FROM PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH PRESENTS A FORMIDABLE LOGISTIC EXERCISE IN WHICH ALL OUR MEAGRE RESOURCES WILL BE STRAINED TO THE LIMIT.

"IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT I REQUEST YOUR EXCELLENCY TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF LOGISTIC ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF LARGE TRANSPORT PLANES AND SHIPS TO FERRY PERSONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH. I FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WHICH HAS ALREADY MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RELIEF, REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS IN BANGLADESH, WOULD GIVE ITS VALUABLE AND URGENT CONSIDERATION TO MY REQUEST."

END TEXT

2. KARIM REMINDED CHARGE THAT DELHI AGREEMENT PROVIDED THAT "RECEIVING " GOVERNMENT WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORT FROM AGREED POINTS OF EXITS. IN OTHER WORDS, BDG WOULD TAKE ON BURDEN OF MOVING BENGALIS FROM AIRPORTS OR SEAPORTS IN PAKISTAN. GOVERNMENT OF SWITZERLAND WAS AGREED UPON TO COORDINATE INTERNATIONAL OR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE IN MOVEMENT OF PERSONS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS.

3. EMBASSY DACCA WILL RESERVE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS UNTIL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFTER WE CONSULT SWISS EMBASSY, ICRC AND UNHCR REPS HERE. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT BDG AND PRESUMABLY GOP COUNTING ON USG FOR SUBSTANTIAL SHARE OF ASSISTANCE. OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKELY TO TAKE THEIR CUES FROM US. THEREFORE URGE THAT USG RESPOND INITIALLY AND PROMPTLY WITH UNSPECIFIED OFFER TO ASSIST WITHOUT WAITING TO STAFF OUR PRECISE MODALITIES.

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